

CALLISTO COFFEELLA A SPECIES NEW TO BRITAIN 41  
CALLISTO COFFEELLA (ZETTERSTEDT)  
(LEP., GRACILLARIIDAE):  
A SPECIES NEW TO BRITAIN

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On the 18th June, 1983, two of us (R.M.P. and M.R.Y.) visited Glen Callater, which is situated some two miles south of Braemar in South Aberdeenshire (V.C.92). The glen runs approximately N.W. to S.E., rises from 380 m at Glen Clunie to 600 m and then has at its head a series of base-rich corries renowned for their arctic-alpine vegetation. Following the late spring of 1983 there were fewer species flying than is usual for mid-June here, and the comparative state of the season may be illustrated by the fact that *Lita virgella* Thunb. was newly emerged and *Ematurga atomaria* L. in full flight.



*Callisto coffeella* (Zetterstedt), male:  
Glen Callater, Aberdeenshire (x 8).

At about N.G.R. NO 162 870, at an altitude of 450 m and at about 11.30 a.m., a Gracillariid was found sitting on a lichen covered rock in full sunlight by R.M.P. The moth, which was in good condition, showed no inclination to fly and was easily boxed. Neither R.M.P. nor M.R.Y. could identify it, but the following autumn E.C.P.-C. saw it and tentatively named it as *Callisto coffeella* (Zetterstedt) (= *interruptella* (Zetterstedt) = *blandella* (Müller-Rutz)), a species not previously recorded in the British Isles; and this identity was later confirmed by comparison with the series at the British Museum (Natural History). The specimen has been presented to the Royal Scottish Museum by R.M.P.

On the Continent this species is montane, occurring in the Alps and in Scandinavia. The larva feeds on *Salix*, at first mining,

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later in a folded leaf, becoming fully grown in August or September when it spins a large, smooth, tough, brownish cocoon in a fork of a twig of its foodplant. The moth emerges the following year. The only *Salix* recorded as a foodplant appears to be *S. hastata* but probably it feeds on other montane species as well. \*It is notable that *Salix hastata* has been introduced in large quantities from continental nurserymen in recent years and is now widespread in gardens: there is thus a possibility that *C. coffeella* has been introduced with this plant, but in view of the remoteness of the place of capture it seems more likely that it belongs to our original arctic-alpine fauna and has been overlooked until now.

There were no willows immediately near the rock where the moth was found, but *Salix aurita* grows commonly as a small bush along the burns and *S. repens* is a common species there, at least in the lower glen. Glen Callater has almost all Scottish species of *Salix* growing in it, including the rarer upland species in the upper glen, but the species most like *S. hastata* in form and habit, and which is known from the lower glen where the moth was found, is *S. repens*, and it may be that it would be worth searching that species for larvae first.

#### Acknowledgements

For much information on the biology of this species, and its synonymy, we are grateful to Ingvar Svensson of Kristianstad, Sweden, Dr. Paolo Triberti of Verona, Italy, and Dr. Steven Whitebread of Magden, Switzerland. For the photograph of *C. coffeella* figured, we thank Mr. David Wilson of Much Hadham, Hertfordshire.

\*Lt. Col. A. M. Emmet has kindly informed us that the Hering herbarium at the British Museum (Natural History) includes mines on *Salix arbuscula* only. This *Salix* species has not been recorded from Glen Callater but has been recorded rarely elsewhere in the Cairngorms.

COLEOPHORA SERRATELLA L.: A PREVIOUSLY UNRECORDED FOODPLANT. — On 25th. May 1983 in West Wood, near Winchester, VC 11, I noticed some leaves on a *Salix caprea* showing signs of being eaten by a Coleophorid larva and on searching found not the expected and easily recognised cases of *Coleophora viminitella* Zell. or *Coleophora albidella* D. & S. but two plain short cases. The larvae continued to feed on *S. caprea* for about a further 10 days, then fixed and produced in the latter part of June, adults which appeared to be *Coleophora serratella* L., and I have subsequently dissected one to confirm this. Emmet (1979) in "A Guide to the smaller British Lepidoptera" gives *Alnus glutinosa*, *Betula*, *Corylus* or *Ulmus*; occasionally on *Sorbus aucuparia*, *S. aria* and *Carpinus* and I am unable to find reference to foodplants other than these in other literature, so this appears to be the only record of *S. caprea* as a foodplant for *C. serratella*. — COL. D. H. STERLING, "Tangmere", 2 Hampton Lane, Winchester, Hants SO22 5LF.